Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A supporting mechanism for a rod integrator, a cross-sectional shape of the rod integrator is a quadrilateral, the supporting mechanism comprising:

a first holding member that holds a rod integrator;

a first supporting member that presses the first holding member against the rod integrator to support the rod integrator, ~~wherein~~

the first holding member comprises:

a first contact portion which contacts with a first side surface of the rod integrator; ~~and~~

a first facing portion which is spaced from a first side edge of the first side surface; and

a second contact portion which contacts with a second side surface of the rod integrator, the second side surface being adjacent to the first side surface and sharing the first side edge with the first side surface;

a second holding member that holds the rod integrator;

a second supporting member that presses the second holding member against the rod integrator to support the rod integrator,

the second holding member comprises:

a third contact portion which contacts with a third side surface of the rod integrator;

a second facing portion which is spaced from a second side edge of the third side surface; and

a fourth contact portion which contacts with a fourth side surface of the rod integrator, the fourth side surface being adjacent to the third side surface and sharing the second side edge with the third side surface, wherein

the first and second supporting members press the rod integrator along a direction of a diagonal of the quadrilateral cross section of the rod integrator in opposite directions to one another.

8. - 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A supporting mechanism according to Claim 7, wherein

when the first side surface is divided in a direction of a light axis of the rod integrator into:

an entrance part which is adjacent to a light entrance plane of the rod integrator;

a projection part which is adjacent to a light projection plane of the rod integrator, and

a middle part between the entrance part and the projection part,

the first contact portion contacts only the middle part.

12. (Original) A projector for projecting an image, comprising:

a light source;

a rod integrator through which a light from the light source passes;

the supporting mechanism according to Claim 7;

an optical modulation unit that

modulates the light received from the rod integrator into image light which shows an image according to image signals, and

projects the image light; and

a projecting optical system that projects the image light received from the optical modulation unit.